

**Before The
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
RECEIVED
DEC 17 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of

Advanced Television Systems
and Their Impact Upon the
Existing Television Broadcast
Service

)
)
)
)
)
)

MM Docket No. 87-268

To: The Commission

PARTIAL OPPOSITION

The St. Lawrence Valley Educational Television Council ("St. Lawrence Valley") hereby opposes, insofar as they would affect the proposed DTV allotments for its stations, the changes proposed by the Association for Maximum Service Television, Inc. and other parties ("MSTV") to the Table of Allotments adopted in the *Sixth Report and Order* in this proceeding.¹ St. Lawrence Valley is licensee of noncommercial educational television Stations WNPE-TV, Watertown, New York, and WNPI-TV, Norwood, New York. MSTV has proposed changes in hundreds of allotments in order to reduce interference and address DTV-to-DTV short-spacing. St. Lawrence Valley appreciates the effort to fine-tune the Table and resolve problems in congested areas. Unfortunately, though, MSTV's newest proposals for the St. Lawrence Valley stations would put them at a significant disadvantage.

¹ The Commission by Public Notice issued December 2, 1997 established today as the deadline for the filing of responses to MSTV's filing.

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

024

1. Station WNPE-TV broadcasts on NTSC Channel *16 and the Commission has allotted it DTV Channel 21. Station WNPI-TV broadcasts on NTSC Channel *18 and the Commission has allotted it DTV Channel 23. Those DTV allotments are good ones. St. Lawrence Valley is a non-profit organization operating in a rural environment. It will have to proceed efficiently and economically in order to implement DTV while maintaining its high level of public service. Neither of its current towers could support an additional UHF television antenna or an additional transmission line, and St. Lawrence Valley has determined that the towers could not practicably be re-stressed to do so. Nor could it likely obtain authority to construct towers of the size which would be needed at the current sites. Therefore, it plans to use combiners to diplex broadcasts on Channels 16 and 21 and on channels 18 and 23 through a single new antenna for each station during the DTV transition period.

2. MSTV proposes to allot Channel 17 for DTV operations on Station WNPE-TV. Such an allotment would present two overwhelming problems. First, the plan to diplex would be destroyed by the allotment of adjacent NTSC and DTV channels. The technology for adjacent channel NTSC/DTV diplexing is not available and, at this point, not proven to be feasible. Second, while the station's current transmission line would accommodate the combined power of Channels 16 and 21, it could not accommodate a combination of Channels 16 and 17. Transmission line has to be cut based on the wave length of the associated broadcast frequency. Channel 16 requires transmission line cut in lengths of 19.75 feet, while Channel 17 requires line in lengths of 19.5 feet. The broadcast of Channel 17 through a line cut for Channel 16 would cause a high VSWR.

3. Station WNPI-TV would suffer from the same transmission-line mismatch problem during the transition period if it were to operate on Channel 55 as proposed by MSTV. Moreover, Channel 55 lays outside of the existing "core" spectrum. While the initial DTV allotments were made using Channels 2 to 51, the Commission has not made a decision as to whether the ultimate core spectrum will encompass Channels 2 to 46 or Channels 7 to 51. In either event, Channel 55 will be non-core. If Channel 55 were assigned it, Station WNPI-TV would, following the transition period, have either to switch its digital service to its current NTSC Channel 18 or to an alternate channel assigned by the Commission from recovered spectrum.² In either instance, the licensee would have to bear the cost of two channel moves during the digital conversion.

4. St. Lawrence Valley currently estimates the costs of DTV conversion at about \$2-½ million for its two stations. Substitution of new channels as proposed by MSTV could easily double or triple those projected costs in order to accommodate the purchase of new towers, land, and transmission line. The difference between the costs of conversion under the Commission's allotment, which permit diplexing, and MSTV's proposed allotments, which do not, could easily make the difference between continued public service and failure to survive, or at least to survive in good financial health.

² Also, during the transition period, broadcasting on the much higher Channel 55 would likely make it difficult to reach some of the station's current audience in Ottawa, Canada. The licensee's first obligation is to its community of license and the Table is designed to replicate service to the U.S. But a substantial part of the station's audience is in Canada, and Canadian support makes the current level of operations possible.

For these reasons, St. Lawrence Valley must oppose the proposed changes in the allotments for Stations WNPE-TV and WNPI-TV.

Respectfully submitted,

ST. LAWRENCE VALLEY EDUCATIONAL
TELEVISION COUNCIL

By: Lawrence M. Miller
Lawrence M. Miller

SCHWARTZ, WOODS & MILLER
1350 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20036

202/833-1700

Its Attorneys

TOTAL P.02

TOTAL P.06

DECLARATION

I hereby declare, under penalty of perjury, that, except for the facts of which the Federal Communications Commission may take official notice, the facts stated in the foregoing PARTIAL OPPOSITION are true and correct.

Dated this 17th day of December, 1997.

Calvin H. Schantz

Chief Engineer

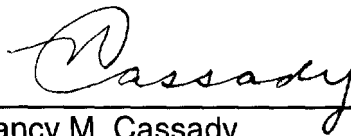
Title

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Nancy M. Cassady, Secretary in the law offices of Schwartz, Woods & Miller, hereby certify that I have on this 17th day of December, 1997, sent by First Class United States mail, postage prepaid, copies of the foregoing **PARTIAL OPPOSITION** to:

Mr. Victor Tawil, Senior Vice President
Assn. Of Maximum Service Television, Inc.
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036

Jonathan D. Blake, Esquire
Ellen P. Goodman, Esquire
Covington & Burling
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
P. O. Box 7566
Washington, DC 20044-7566

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nancy M. Cassady", is written over a horizontal line.

Nancy M. Cassady